Runway Lighting System are to be provided at such acrodrames and all significant obstructions at these aerodromes, are to be lighted. Instrument Landing Systems are also proposed to be established at such aerodromes.

(c) All the aerodromes opened for international operations are provided facilities for meeting the International Civil Aviation Organisation standards. Aerodromes opened purely for domestic operations are provided essential facilities for the safety of aircraft operation.

Overhauling of IA and AI

52. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to undertake a drastic overhaul of the Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, what are the measures taken in this regard and to what extent overhauling of the two Airlines would help in improving the efficiency after reducing the cost and to what extent the safety measures have been taken; and

(c) to what extent the existing Boards of Air India and Indian Airlines have improved the efficiency of the two Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The performance of Indian Airlines and Air India is reviewed from time to time by the Government. For monitoring the performance, several measures in the shape of Memoranda of Understanding, Annual Action Plan etc. have been devised. As and when a need is felt to improve certain areas of activities, suitable steps are taken to remove the deficiency. Government has also decided to set up a Committee to look into the safety and maintenance aspect of the air operations of the Indian Airlines.

(c) The performance of airlines depends upon several factors. The performance of the Boards of Indian Airlines and Air India have been found to be by and large, satisfactory.

Accident of Gorakhpur-Cochin Express

53. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight bogies of the 912 Gorakhpur-Cochin Express had derailed after the train rammed into a wagon on the main line of the Central Railway at Kapari Station on the 10th January, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the total number of passengers killed and injured; and

(c) what are the main reasons therefor and what action has been taken by Government to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there was no loss of life, 14 passengers sustained injuries including 3 grievous and 11 simple.

(c) The accident occurred due to failure of railway staff in not verifying the Complete arrival of the goods train at Khapri station.

The following steps have been taken to prevent such accidents:-

(i) Intensification of inspections.

(ii) Counselling of staff.

(iii) Holding of safety camps.

(iv) Emphasis on refresher courses, etc.